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## Work and Community in the Jungle: Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1894-1922 (Working Class in American History)

*James R. Barrett*

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**James R. Barrett : Work and Community in the Jungle: Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1894-1922 (Working Class in American History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Work and Community in the Jungle: Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1894-1922 (Working Class in American History):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended.....By Elena Del TioVERY GOOD BOOK!!!!!! If you are from Chicago or not, read this book about the beginning of slaughter houses and the Chicago slums and how they evolved. The workers at these slaughter houses sometimes lost a finger cutting meat, but they had to keep going so they just ground the finger up in the meat!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is an fairly engaging non-fiction rewrite of Upton Sinclair's ...By BoetiusThis is an fairly engaging non-fiction rewrite of Upton Sinclair's The Jungle, the socialist tract that inspired the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.. It attempts to provide additional insight, or at least the appearance of additional insight, with some statistics and a few new hard facts, but otherwise it contributes nothing actually new. It has long been a clever strategy by some historians to take an acclaimed book from the past and recreate it in a more modern form. Barrett does that here with some success, if not with much originality.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. recommend it to my friend.By Russellarrive

on time. I absolutely love this product! I purchased this product along with a cutting board for a fruit platter that I needed to make for a party this past weekend. This product worked perfectly. It cut right threw the hard watermelon rind also cut the pineapple so perfectly. I am very pleased with the purchase! If your thinking about ordering this product you won't be disappointed. Thank you to the seller for a nice an smooth purchase! send it to my grandson, very nice . good seller.

Chicago's packinghouse workers were not the hopeless creatures depicted by Upton Sinclair in *The Jungle*, but active agents in the early twentieth century transformation that swept urban industrial America. In his case study of Chicago's Union Stockyards, Barrett focuses on the workers - older skilled immigrants, new immigrant common laborers, migrant blacks, and young women workers - and the surrounding neighborhoods. The lives and communities of these workers accurately convey the experience of mass-production work, the quality of working-class life, the process of class formation and fragmentation, and the changing character of class relations. Because Packingtown's struggle for existence was linked directly to the character of work and employment in the industry, unionization played an important role in the lives of these workers. Although unionization was associated with both improving the quality of life and creating a viable community, workers were divided by race, ethnic identity, and skill. *Work and Community in the Jungle* discusses a wide range of social, economic, and cultural factors that resulted in class cohesion and fragmentation. Addressing the broader problem of relations between capital and labor, Barrett demonstrates the effects of government intervention on labor organization, negotiation, and conflict. Shop-floor workers banded together to develop new strategies and forms of organization in their struggle with management for control. Barrett employs contemporary social surveys and a computer-assisted analysis of census data to illustrate the physical and social characteristics of the workers' environment. He analyzes this data in the context of the relationships between community, ethnicity, family, work experience, and industrial characteristics.

"Barrett's book on the Chicago packinghouse workers revises in important ways our notions about how class formation took place among immigrant industrial workers. It is a fine examples of the innovative work currently underway on the social history of American labor."--David Brody, author of *Workers in Industrial America: Essays on the Twentieth-Century Struggle*